

# STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

## *Office of the Governor*



### PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, Mississippi is home to 34,700 farms, 10.4 million acres of farmland, and 19.2 million acres of forest lands; and

**WHEREAS**, agriculture is the state's largest industry, the backbone of Mississippi's economy contributing more than \$9 billion to the economy in 2022 in farm-gate value of commodities produced; and

**WHEREAS**, agriculture employs approximately 17.4% of the state's workforce either directly or indirectly; and

**WHEREAS**, Mississippi is the number one producer nationally of farm-raised catfish and a top 10 producer of pulpwood, sweet potatoes, cotton, pine lumber, broilers, rice, and peanuts; and

**WHEREAS**, farmers battle uncertain weather, fluctuating market prices, and many other challenges to help supply the globe with an abundant, safe, and affordable food supply, along with countless other agricultural products that we use in our everyday lives; and

**WHEREAS**, the American farmer is the true conservationist, taking care of the land and all that nature has provided in order that they can provide for others; and

**WHEREAS**, the mission of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce is to promote the state's agricultural industry while enforcing laws governing the various agricultural sectors and providing services to consumers and agribusinesses; and

**WHEREAS**, 2023 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of National Agriculture Day, an effort to encourage every American to understand how food and fiber products are produced; to appreciate the role agriculture plays in providing safe, abundant and affordable products; to value the essential role of agriculture in maintaining a strong economy; and to acknowledge and consider career opportunities in the agriculture, food and fiber industry.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Tate Reeves, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim March 21, 2023, as

### AGRICULTURE DAY

in the State of Mississippi and encourage our citizens to recognize the value of agriculture to this great state.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE in the City of Jackson, on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of March in the year of our Lord, two thousand and twenty-three and of the Independence of the United States of America, two hundred and forty-seventh.

  
TATE REEVES  
GOVERNOR